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 **JAPAN MEDIA  
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Wednesday, July 26, 2017

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#### HEADLINES

##### Noon news

Most broadcasters gave top play to reports that today marks the first anniversary of the Sagami-hara massacre in Kanagawa Prefecture in which 19 people with disabilities were killed. TV Asahi led with a report that the LDP's Headquarters for the Promotion of Revision to the Constitution will hold a meeting today for the first time in about three weeks, adding, however, that LDP members are growingly cautious about constitutional revision in view of the recent plunge in cabinet approval ratings.

#### INTERNATIONAL

##### North Korea may be able to deploy ICBM as early as next year

NHK and most commercial networks reported that the online version of The Washington Post reported on Tuesday that several USG officials said the latest analysis by the Pentagon's Defense Intelligence Agency found that North Korea will be able to deploy an ICBM as early as next year. NHK said that according to the analysis, North Korea will be able to produce a nuclear-capable ICBM sometime in 2018 and acquire the ability to attack the U.S. with a nuclear missile much earlier than anticipated.

Meanwhile, NHK reported that a USG official told the network on Tuesday that ballistic missile equipment has been seen arriving in the city of Kusong in North Korea since last week. The network added that the Pentagon is increasing its vigilance as North Korea may decide to launch an ICBM-level missile on July 27, which marks the 64th anniversary of the signing of the Korean War armistice agreement.

##### DOS official says U.S. to impose unilateral sanctions on Chinese companies

NHK and most commercial networks reported at noon that Acting Assistant Secretary of State Thornton testified at a Senate hearing on Tuesday that North Korea "has no intention to abandon its nuclear development program" and that "we are not in a situation to hold a dialogue" with North Korea. When asked when the U.S. will impose sanctions on Chinese companies in order to cut the source of financing for North Korea's nuclear and missile development, she was quoted as saying: "We have been working on coming up with the new list of entities. I think you will see that fairly soon." The USG has announced on June 29 that it will impose sanctions on two Chinese firms and two Chinese individuals who were involved in North Korean nuclear and missile development. Thornton reportedly stressed that the USG will continue to increase the pressure on North Korea by announcing that it will soon impose fresh sanctions on Chinese companies that have dealings with the North. Meanwhile, the network said Chinese Ambassador to the U.S. Cui Tiankai warned against such U.S. moves by saying: "Such actions are unacceptable. They seriously impact China-U.S. cooperation on the Korean nuclear issue."

- [Japan not ready to start trade talks with U.S.: Ross](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Ex-vice minister for int'l affairs at MOF recalls Asian currency crisis on 20th anniversary](#) (Mainichi)

#### OPINION POLLS

- [Opinion poll & results from Nikkei Digital](#) (Nikkei Online)
- [Jiji Press Public Opinion Poll on Fathers' Participation in Childcare](#) (Jiji Press Public Opinion Poll Bulletin)
- [Pollees in favor of constitutional revision outnumber those opposed, but LDP growing cautious, Sankei-FNN poll](#) (Sankei)

#### POLITICS

- [Abe looks to form cabinet of "skilled politicians"](#) (Sankei)
- [Abe's overseas trips cost 2.335 bil. yen in FY15](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Abe reiterates 'Jan. 20' claim on school plan](#) (The Japan News)
- [Abe struggles to revive support as scandal threatens agenda](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Commentary: Off-session Budget Committee meetings fail to dispel Kake Gakuen suspicions](#) (Mainichi)

- [Ruling parties concerned that restoring public trust will be impossible](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Discontent simmers in DP even after Secretary General Noda's resignation](#) (Yomiuri)
- [DP puts off assessment of Tokyo assembly election defeat due to internal discord](#) (Mainichi)
- [Nikai faction calls for compilation of 10 tn yen supplementary budget](#) (Mainichi)
- [Editorial: Will out-of-session deliberations on Kake issue help restore trust in gov't?](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: If Abe is sincere, he is obliged to practice what he preaches](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Editorial: Doubts shroud Inada's qualifications as defense minister](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Profiles of four political parties' official organs](#) (Nikkei Evening edition)
- [Cartoon: Abe upends cabinet support rate](#) (Asahi)
- [Cartoon: Abe's antsy](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Prime minister's schedule on July 25](#) (Nikkei)

## ECONOMY

- [Japan to trigger safeguard tariffs on US frozen beef](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan expands trade insurance with eye on infrastructure exports](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan's farm co-op group appoints new chairman](#) (Mainichi)
- [Airbnb, Mizuho team up to offer unique accommodations in Japan](#) (Mainichi)
- [Japan labor lobby backs off from merit pay accord](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [GI provisions in Japan-EU EPA could restrict U.S. farm exports to Japan](#) (Nikkei)
- [Economic effects of Japan-EU EPA remain to be seen](#) (Shukan Toyo Keizai)
- [65% opposed to inviting casinos to Yokohama, Kanagawa Shimbun poll](#) (Kanagawa Shimbun)

## SCIENCE

- [Japan crafts AI guidelines ahead of global talks](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

## EDUCATION

- [U.S. students experience Japan culture firsthand](#) (The Japan News)

## SOCIETY

### **Sagamihara massacre: One year later**

NHK's "Close-up Gendai+" reported on the Sagamihara stabbing rampage that occurred on July 26, 2016, in which 19 residents of a facility for people with disabilities in Sagamihara, Kanagawa, were killed by Satoshi Uematsu, a former employee of the facility. The program interviewed more than 100 people, including the families of those killed, police officers, and Uematsu himself through the exchange of letters. The program said it learned that Uematsu's extremely discriminatory feelings toward people with disabilities have not changed, adding that he still believes that people who cannot communicate with others should be euthanized. The program said although Uematsu used to be a friendly person who took care of people with disabilities in the neighborhood, his feelings toward such people began to change drastically after he worked at the facility for a few years. According to the program, Uematsu wrote that he made the decision to kill people with disabilities after seeing President Trump making remarks on the news, although he did not specify which remarks made him feel that way. The program said various irresponsible comments on social media also led Uematsu to develop extreme beliefs and a twisted sense of justice.

- [1-in-3 middle-aged women with young children faced need to care for parents: survey](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Life span gap grows among prefectures](#) (The Japan News)
- [Japan aims to cut suicide rate by 30% in 10 yrs](#) (Kyodo News)

## SECURITY

### **USS Fitzgerald may have had responsibility to avoid collision**

NHK reported this morning that the results of an analysis by the Japanese Coast Guard on the collision between the USS Fitzgerald and a Philippine container vessel last month found that responsibility for taking action to avoid the collision perhaps lay with the Fitzgerald. The network added, however, that no information has been released on the progress of the U.S. investigation, saying that the JCG will continue to call for cooperation and collect information in order to identify the cause of the incident.

- [Citizens' movement to transfer U.S. bases to Japanese mainland gains ground](#) (Asahi)
- [Editorial: Onaga should respect weight of top court's judgment on relocation issue](#) (The Japan News)



- [Philippine Marines conduct joint drill with U.S. Marines in Okinawa, Stars and Stripes](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)
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